

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1 through 12 were originally pending in this application. In response to the December 16, 2004 Office Action, claims 1, 4, and 10-12 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1 through 12 are presently pending for consideration in this application.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct various typographical errors. More specifically, the specification has been amended at line 7 of page 2 by deleting the extra comma, and at line 11 of page 2 by replacing the word “it” with the word “in” before the word “cases.” The specification has also been amended at line 12 of page 4 by deleting the word “of” after the word “comprises.” Further, at line 6 of page 5 the word “and” has been replaced with the word “is” before “then fitted.” No new matter has been added. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the amendments to the specification be entered.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 4, 10, and 12 were objected to because they each contained various informalities. Accordingly, applicant has amended claims 4, 10, and 12 to remove these informalities. Specifically, claim 4 has been amended by: a) changing “a” to “an” before “upper retainer” in line 2 to correct the typographical error; b) inserting the word “the” before “ceiling” in line 2 to provide antecedent basis to “ceiling”; c) inserting the word “a” before “tube connector” in line 3 to provide antecedent basis to “tube connector”; d) inserting the word “a” before “lower retainer” to provide antecedent basis to “lower retainer”; e) inserting the word “a” before “male connector” in line 4 to provide antecedent

basis to “male connector”; and f) inserting the word “a” before “receiving hole” in line 4 to provide antecedent basis to “receiving hole.” Claim 10 has been amended by replacing the word “of” with “a” before the word “wire” in line 2 to correct the typographical error. Further, claim 12 has been amended as discussed in greater detail below.

Applicant respectfully submits that informalities in the claims have been addressed as noted above. Thus, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner’s objections to the claims be withdrawn.

Rejections of the Claims

Claims 1-3, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,087,953 to DeLine et al. A claim is said to be anticipated where each and every limitation of the claim can be found in a single reference. Claims 1, 11, and 12 have been amended to more particularly describe the invention. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 11, and 12 can be found, for example, at page 4, lines 7-9, page 5, lines 3-8, and in Figures 2-4. As such, no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the invention described in independent claim 1, as amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the DeLine et al. ‘953 patent. Accordingly, the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully traversed.

The DeLine et al. ‘953 Patent

The DeLine et al. ‘953 patent discloses a rearview mirror support and information display assembly 10 that is adapted to be releasably secured to the windshield W of a vehicle. The assembly 10 includes a mirror stay 14 and a mirror support ball pivot member 16. The rearview mirror 12 is pivotally attached to the ball pivot member 16. The assembly 10 also includes a display element 24

for conveying information to the occupants of the vehicle. The rearview mirror 12 may be electrically operated, and the assembly 10 includes electrical wiring 30 with a connector 32 that provides electrical service from the vehicle to the rearview mirror 12. (Col. 5, ll. 31-62). However, the DeLine et al. '953 patent does *not* disclose or suggest a harness assembly adapted for establishing electrical connection with the display screen, wherein the harness assembly extends through a connector assembly that is adapted for pivotal and rotational attachment of the display screen and to disengage from the display screen during emergency situations as set forth in amended claim 1.

The Dockable Connection Assembly of the Present Invention

In contrast the to the related art, amended independent claim 1 clarifies the invention claimed as a dockable connection assembly for a display screen in a motor vehicle having a ceiling and a passenger seating area. The dockable connection assembly includes a retainer assembly and a connector assembly adapted for *pivotal and rotational attachment* of the display screen and to *disengage* from the display screen during emergency situations. The dockable connection assembly also includes a harness assembly adapted for establishing electrical connection with the display screen. The harness assembly *extends through the connector assembly*.

Argument

Applicant respectfully submits that the dockable connection assembly of claim 1, as amended, is not disclosed or suggested by the De Line '953 patent. Specifically, the De Line '953 patent *merely* discloses a rearview mirror support and information display assembly 10 that includes a mirror stay 14, a ball pivot member 16 adapted for pivotal attachment of a rearview mirror 12, and electrical wiring 30 with a connector 32 that provides electrical service from the vehicle to the

rearview mirror 12. However, the DeLine et al. '953 patent does **not** disclose a harness assembly adapted for establishing electrical connection with the display screen, wherein the harness assembly extends through a connector assembly that is adapted for pivotal and rotational attachment of the display screen and to disengage from the display screen during emergency situations as required by claim 1. In the De Line '953 patent, the ball pivot member 16 is adapted for pivotal attachment of the rearview mirror 12 like the connector assembly of claim 1, but the electrical wiring 30 and connector 32 are disposed **outside** of the ball pivot member 16 unlike the apparatus of claim 1.

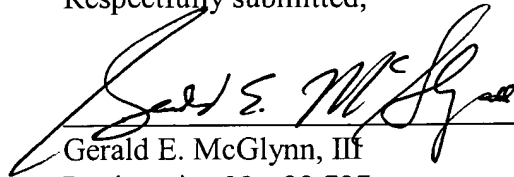
Each of the references of record in this case fails to disclose a dockable connection assembly for a display screen in a motor vehicle having a ceiling and a passenger seating area, wherein the dockable connection assembly includes a retainer assembly, a connector assembly adapted for pivotal and rotational attachment of the display screen and to disengage from the display screen during emergency situations, and a harness assembly adapted for establishing electrical connection with the display screen, wherein the harness assembly extends through the connector assembly. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 2 through 12 are each ultimately dependent upon claim 1 and add perfecting limitations. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 through 12 are allowable over the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Conclusion

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the claims clearly distinguish over the prior art and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully solicits the allowance of the claims pending in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. McGlynn, III", is written over a horizontal line.

Gerald E. McGlynn, III
Registration No. 33,737
BLISS McGLYNN, P.C.
2075 W. Big Beaver, Suite 600
Troy, Michigan 48084
(248) 649-6090

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